

## **General Information about UNOLS**

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#### **I What is UNOLS?**

University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) is an organization of 63 academic institutions and National Laboratories involved in oceanographic research and joined for the purpose of coordinating oceanographic ships' schedules and research facilities.

The original UNOLS Charter was written in 1972 and most recently revised in 2001. As of May 1, 2000, the office for UNOLS is located at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in Moss Landing, California.

Why UNOLS? Former Chairman Ken Johnson has written a white paper entitled "The University - National Oceanographic Laboratory System: Celebrating 25 Years as the Nation's Premier Oceanographic Research Fleet".

One of the primary functions of UNOLS is to ensure the efficient scheduling of scientific cruises aboard the 27 research vessels located at 20 operating institutions in the UNOLS organization. Both current and future schedules for these ships are available through the UNOLS scheduling link on this page. A searchable database of world wide research vessel schedules can be found on OCEANIC, an on-line information system of the Ocean Information Center at the University of Delaware. OCEANIC can be accessed at <http://www.cms.udel.edu>

#### **II UNOLS Mission Statement**

The University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) is an organization of academic oceanographic institutions working in cooperation with agencies of the U.S. Federal Government to ensure broad access to modern, well-operated, state-of-the-art research vessels, submersibles and facilities required to support a healthy and vigorous research and education program in the ocean sciences.

UNOLS is an advisory body that provides the mechanisms for coordinated scheduling and access to research vessels and facilities, cooperation and innovation by facility operators and broad community input to operators and federal agencies regarding current and future facility requirements for the ocean sciences.

#### **III UNOLS Goals**

Ensure broad, coordinated access to oceanographic research facilities:  
Maintain a system that ensures broad access to research vessels and other facilities and provides for coordinated, efficient and effective scheduling of those research vessels and facilities.

Work towards continuous quality improvement of existing facilities:  
Foster co-operation between facility operators, funding agencies and

research scientists with the goal of continuously improving the quality and capability of existing ocean science facilities and the quality, reliability and safety of their operation.

Plan for and foster support for the oceanographic facilities of the future: Provide leadership and broad community input to the process of planning for and supporting the improvement, renewal and addition of facilities required to support the ocean sciences in the future.

**Access, Scheduling & Utilization** (Ongoing Responsibilities) Scheduling improvements - Improve systems and results to maximize access to facilities. MMPA/ESA Permitting - facilitate compliance and cruise planning.

**Outreach and Education** - bring the knowledge of ocean science research to the public along with an understanding of the facilities needed to support that research.

**Continuous Quality Improvement** (Improvements to Existing Facilities and Systems) Quality Improvement - Use Post Cruise Assessments as core of quality improvement plans

**Standards of Service** - set standards for facilities, instrumentation and service.

**Plan for Future Facilities** (New Opportunities and Facilities) Fleet Renewal - Implementation of FOFC plan, concept designs and funding for new ship construction.

**Observatories** - Assess the needs and impacts of observatory systems with respect to facilities, ships, submersibles and aircraft.

**Icebreaker renewal** - service life extension and science system improvements for POLAR Class icebreakers.

**Integrated Facilities planning** - plan for ships, submersibles, aircraft, observatories and instrumentation through a systematic and coordinated approach.

**Submergence vehicle renewal** - develop the tools to enhance access for submergence science.